

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 76. }

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, March 31, 1863.

I.. Before a General Court Martial, which convened at Poolsville, Maryland, March 10, 1863, pursuant to General Orders, No. 12, dated Headquarters, Independent Brigade, March 8, 1863; and of which Colonel WILLIAM WIRT VIRGIN, 23d Maine Volunteers, is President, was arraigned and tried—

James Snowdon Pleasants, citizen, of Montgomery county, Maryland.

CHARGE.—“Relieving the enemy with victuals, and knowingly harboring and protecting them.”

Specification 1st—“In this; that he, the said *James Snowdon Pleasants*, a citizen of Montgomery county, Maryland, did, on or about the 4th day of March, A. D. 1863, at his, the said *James Snowdon Pleasants*' residence, near Poolsville, Montgomery county, Maryland, with victuals relieve, and did knowingly harbor and protect, John Key, L. Orrick Bennett, and Robert Boyle they, the said Key, Bennett, and Boyle, being then and there enemies of the United States, and in the service of the Rebel armies.”

Specification 2d—“In this; that the said *James Snowdon Pleasants*, a citizen of Montgomery county, Maryland, did, from the 1st day of March, A. D. 1863, to the 4th day of March, A. D. 1863, inclusive, at his, the said *James Snowdon Pleasants*' residence, near Poolsville, Montgomery county, Maryland, relieve the enemy, and did knowingly harbor and protect them, to wit: two men bearing the names of John Key and L. Orrick Bennett; they, the said Key and Bennett, being then and there enemies of the United States, and in the service of the Rebel armies.”

To which charge and specifications the accused, *James Snowdon Pleasants*, of Montgomery county, Maryland, pleaded “Not Guilty.”

FINDING.

The Court, having maturely considered the evidence adduced, finds the accused, *James Snowden Pleasants*, of Montgomery county, Maryland, as follows:

Of the 1st *Specification*, "Guilty."

Of the 2d *Specification*, "Guilty."

Of the CHARGE "Guilty."

SENTENCE.

And the Court does therefore sentence him, *James Snowden Pleasants*, a citizen of Montgomery county, Maryland, "*To be hung by the neck until he is dead, at such time and place as shall be appointed by the proper authorities,*" two thirds of the members of the Court concurring therein.

II..The proceedings in the foregoing case have been submitted to the President of the United States. The following are the orders thereon:

MARCH 25, 1863.

The sentence of death in this case is hereby commuted to imprisonment for during the war, in one of the military prisons to be designated by the Secretary of War.

A. LINCOLN

III..In compliance with the order of the President, Fort Delaware is hereby designated as the place in which *James Snowden Pleasants* shall be confined.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND,

Assistant Adjutant General.